

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are currently active.

The Examiner has objected to the length of the abstract. The abstract has been amended to be a shorter length.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3 and 13-14 as being unpatentable over Abraham in view of Stein. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. There is no teaching or suggestion of a switch with respect to the first inspection engine and a second inspection engine as claimed.

Referring to Abraham, there is simply taught a plurality of networks in relationship with each other. Abraham teaches the Internet 40 is a collection of local area networks 44, wide area networks 46, and routers 42 that use the transmission control protocol/internet protocol to communicate with each other. Figure 2 illustrates a local area network 44 such as that typically connected to the Internet 40. The local area network 44 is a bus network and connecting various clients and servers. The local area network 44 can be formed by various coupling media such as glass or plastic fiber optic cables, coax cables, twisted wire pair cables, ribbon cables. Computers interconnected by the local area network

44 include a plurality of client computers 52. These client computers equipped with at least a graphical user interface component are known as administrative clients 54. Operators of the administrative clients are organized into three hierarchical levels of the administration, namely a system administrator, a mid-level administrator and the manager. The system administrator is capable of setting specific policies for the users of the local area network 44 regarding what type of services and information each user may have access to on the Internet 40. The mid-level administrator and manager, have more limited capabilities. The local area network 44 includes a domain controller server 60 that keeps track of what users are logged into which client computers 52 and which administrative computers 54 at any given time. When a user logs into a client computer 52, the user is said to have started a session with a local area network 44. The main controller server 60 captures a record of this session and stores the logic name of the user and computer name or host name of the computer logged into by the user.

The local area network 44 is insulated from the Internet 40 by a fire wall server 48 which tracks and controls the flow of all data packets passing through it through the transmission control protocol/Internet protocol. The firewall 48 protects the local area network 44 from malicious inbound IP packet traffic, but does not allow users of the local area network 44 to dynamically determine to which information and services on the Internet users of the local area network 44 may have access. All inbound IP packet traffic from the Internet

40 passing through the firewall 48 and all outbound IP packet traffic from the local area network 44 passes through a network server 50 equipped with a network operating system that coordinates this transfer of data packets. See column 5, line 26-column 6, line 18.

As is clear from the above text, and teachings, that Abraham recognizes and teaches the use of a fire wall but in no way is there any consideration of using a switch to direct traffic specifically to the firewall and out of the line with any network, as found in the Claim 1 of applicant.

Referring to Stein, there is disclosed web security. Pages 394-399 are directed to the outgoing Web access which focuses on commands in the packet filter for what has described in table 14.1. There is no discussion whatsoever regarding a switch, or even any type of architecture whatsoever.

Beginning on page 399 of Stein, there is taught incoming Web access. Stein teaches in figures 14.3C, 14.3D and 14.3E various architectures for positioning of a firewall. These architectures are called the private affair or the doubly fortified or the demilitarized zone architectures. All of these architectures fail to teach anywhere the use of a switch, let alone a switch connected to a first inspection engine or a second inspection engine which are not in line with the internal network and the external network. Stein teaches to direct traffic

from the router to the firewall and then from the firewall directly to the network. See page 43.

There is no teaching or suggestion anywhere in the applied art of record of a first inspection engine and a second inspection engine connected to the switch and not in line with the internal network and the external network, which receives traffic from the switch, processes the traffic to determine whether it is desired traffic or undesired traffic, which prevents undesired traffic from passing through it and which sends desired traffic back to the switch, as found in Claim 1 of applicant.

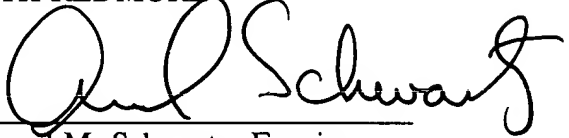
Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to point out in Stein where the language exists that supports or teaches this limitation. Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-3 and 13-14 are patentable over Abraham in view of Stein for the reasons stated above.

The Examiner has found Claims 4-12 and 15-20 as allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejections and objections to this application be reconsidered and withdrawn, and Claims 1-20, now in this application be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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